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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 378. APRIL, 1938.

SABELLIAN. ARIAN. SOCINIAN.

"Included in 'Unitarian'."—GORDON.

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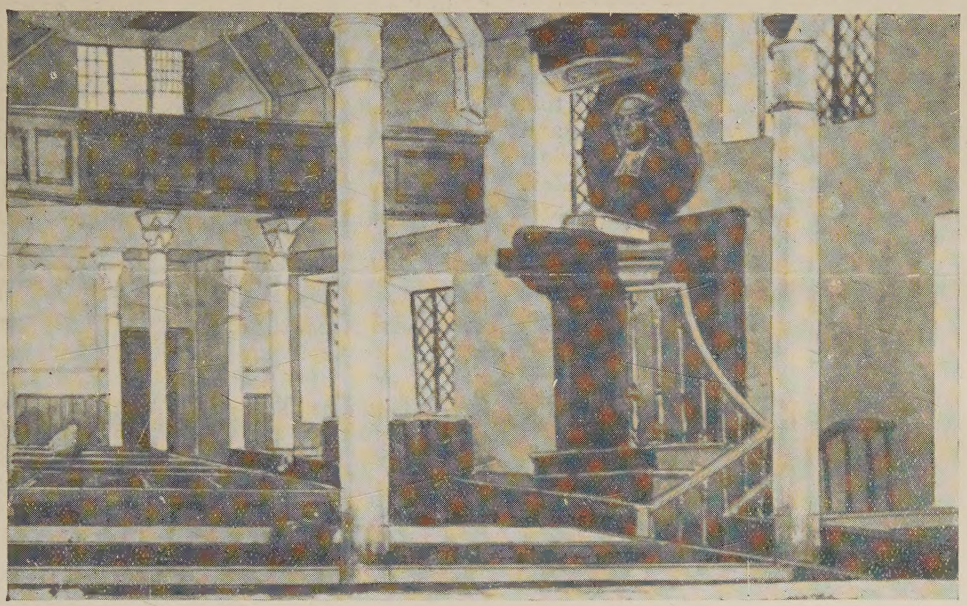


OLD INTERIOR OF NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN MEETING-HOUSE, ANTRIM

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Senate of the University of Dublin has approved the conferring of the degree Doctor of Laws on the Right Hon. James Andrews, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.

* * *

The Unitarian Society for Abolition of Vivisection has issued copies of the recent radio B.B.C. broadcast of the debate on Vivisection. Anti-vivisection evidently has strong support, judging from literature received. We notice the name of Dr. T. G. Vawdrey, who at one time was a well-known doctor in Plymouth, and was a very acceptable preacher in West of England pulpits, and a staunch supporter of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. As recently as September, 1937, Dr. Vawdrey writes—"I condemn vivisection on the ground of the cruelty for which it is responsible. Not all experiments are equally cruel, but most of them are either sterile, contradictory to one another or inconclusive. The question is a moral question. It should be decided on moral grounds." A pamphlet headed "Christianity and Vivisection," gives a portrait of Dr. Westcott, late Bishop of Durham, and an extract from a sermon preached by him in Westminster Abbey—"I find it absolutely inconceivable that we can attain to truths which it is His will that we

should master only through the unutterable agonies of beings which trust in us."

* * *

The menace of drunkenness among young people may be a very serious matter to contend with, but it is nothing compared to one still more serious—the growth of gambling. We have it on reliable authority that numbers of children take small sums, a few coppers, to betting agents, and that the gambling mania is gaining an increasing grip upon society.

* * *

The 317th Meeting of the Ministers' Conference was held on Monday, March 7th, at Ardeevin, Cadogan Park, Belfast, the Rev. R. N. Cross being the host. Mr. Cross formally welcomed the Rev. Henry Hall, the newly placed minister at Downpatrick; this was supported by the Rev. Dr. Agnew, and Rev. F. Munford, and Mr. Hall responded. Congratulations were forwarded to the Rev. and Mrs. J. McCleery of Newry.

At the conclusion of the tea and in proposing a vote of thanks Dr. Agnew again congratulated Mr. Cross on having been elected Principal of Manchester College, Oxford, and wished both Mr. and Mrs. Cross long years of happiness and fruitful labour in their new sphere of life. Mr. Cross responded on behalf of both himself and Mrs. Cross.

* * *

The Moderator has justified the choice, which the Synod made in appointing him. He skilfully steered the boat through a difficult sea, and wherever he has visited he has been welcomed with enthusiasm.

* * *

"The News Chronicle" of March 15th, contained a very apt cartoon of the map of Germany and Austria forming a wolf's head, with Berlin as the eye, and Czecho-Slovakia being a morsel within its jaws.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

* * *

May, 1938, number published on 23rd April. Copy sent in before April 16th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

TRUE TO HER FAITH.!

In a letter to a friend the Rev. A. Margaret Barr, M.A. (the General Assembly's representative in India) writes from the Khasi Hills, "Yesterday an old woman from one of our churches came to see me. I know her well, having often visited her in her own home, but she had never seen me before, having been blind for 9½ years. A few months ago a new doctor came to the Mission Hospital, and on being told that he was expert in dealing with eye-trouble, she went to see him. And he cured her—at any rate she can now see well enough for every day affairs. While she was in the hospital they kept trying to persuade her to become a "Christian" (Unitarians here are not "Christians"), and when she got her sight back they told her that it was Christ who had cured her, so the least she could do in return was to join his church. She is quite uneducated, but one thing, apparently, she has got clear in her Unitarianism: that Christ is not to be confused with God. So she stood firm, saying that she knew well that it was God who had cured her, and that she would always be grateful to Him for His goodness; but she refused staunchly to identify God and Christ, or to believe that God required of her a change of faith.

"It makes me angry to think that there are people who can put before ignorant peasants, incapable of challenging it, such a claim as that as a serious proposition; when they know perfectly well that quite as splendid and wonderful things as are done in any Mission Hospital are done also in civil hospitals and by doctors with no orthodox faith."

The second number of our wall-newspaper, *Khasi News*, will be published in April, and copies will be sent free to all churches; copies will also be on sale at 1d each at the General Assembly meetings in Leeds.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."—Gal. vi. 7.

"Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"—John ix. 2.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

REPORTS.

Glenarm—The installation of the Rev. E. Lockett will take place on April 1st, 1938, by the Presbytery of Templepatrick.

Antrim—The Rev. G. V. Crook completes the Twenty-fifth year of his ministry of this congregation, on April 24th. The silver jubilee will be celebrated by a special service at 4 p.m. The picture on the front page this month is that of the Old Interior of the Meeting House. Mr. Crook is the only remaining minister of the Presbytery of Antrim as it was in 1913. During the last year, there has been quite a revival in this congregation, a great improvement in many ways has taken place, and the attendances on Sundays are very encouraging.

Holywood Women's League—After a most successful season the final meeting was held on Monday, 7th March. The meetings have consisted of a service at which an address on "Growth" was given, a debate on the usefulness or otherwise of "Record Breaking," talks on the "Oxford Group Movement" and "Seed Dispersal," a show of members "Work and Hobbies" and a Christmas Party. The opening and closing meetings and Party were joint meetings of the senior and junior branches. All these meetings have been much enjoyed.—(Mrs.) J. M. Henderson, Hon. Sec.

Ballycarry—The Rev. E. Savell Hicks, M.A. of Dublin, Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Church, visited Ballycarry on Sunday evening the 6th of March and conducted the service and preached to a congregation of some three hundred people at the Old Presbyterian Church, the occasion being the Annual Service of the British Women's League, (Ballycarry Branch).

There was only one Sunday's announcement of the Moderator's visit, but some report had got about of an unusually attractive preacher coming and so the opportunity of hearing him was taken advantage of. The congregation were expectant and they were not disappointed. Very easily did the preacher hold their interest as he spoke so intimately and acceptably as from his heart of the deepest things of life and Religion. There was nothing of a formal discourse, but an appeal to the mind and heart, the reason and common sense of his hearers, coming fresh and warm from actual contact with another human being who was in their midst. The Moderator's visit to this outlying district is greatly appreciated and will be long talked of and remembered.

The musical arrangements (organ and choir) were in the capable and efficient hands of Mr. W. P. Campbell of Whitehead.

Belfast First Presbyterian Church—A farewell meeting to the Rev. R. Nicol Cross and Mrs. Cross was held in the Central Hall, on Tuesday, 22nd March, 1938, at 7-30 p.m. We hope to furnish a fuller report in our next issue.

Belfast Domestic Mission—The Annual Sermons for the Domestic Mission were given by the Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A., of Pendleton, Manchester, on Sunday, March 13th. Preaching at the First Church in the morning on "An Adventure in Understanding" he said that the work of Domestic Missions is of vital importance to-day although it has changed in character since its inception by the Rev. Joseph Tuckerman in Boston, U.S.A., over a hundred years ago. Approach to this work should be made in humility and understanding and not in an attitude of snobbery towards people in poorer circumstances, for God made all spiritually equal.

In the evening at All Souls Church, Mr. Vallance approached in an original manner the subject of "The Undeserving Poor." Everyone, he said, has experienced the disappointment of helping thankless people. The problem of the undeserving poor is difficult to solve, but it is a problem which, in the solving, shows the true value of the Domestic Mission to the Poor. Justice is good but understanding is better.

The evening service was enhanced by the delightful rendering of Handel's, "I know that my Redeemer liveth" by Miss Adelaide Beattie. Rev. A. W. Vallance again appeared before a large audience on Monday evening in the Central Hall when he gave a racy and informative talk on his experience during two separate visits to the Black Forest of Germany, illustrated by lantern slides of his own making. The lantern was ably handled by Mr. Vernon Pringle. Some expressions of regret were heard that no opportunity was afforded the large audience of contributing to the expenses of the lecture but this can easily be remedied by sending an annual subscription to the Mission Funds to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Mackenzie, 44 Knock Eden Park.

At the Annual Meeting held in the afternoon of Monday, the 14th, under the chairmanship of Rev. Howard Payne, the financial

statement showed the meagre balance of 6/9, and the amount from annual subscriptions of under £50 is an indictment of the lack of practical interest shown by Unitarians in our city and country churches. A comprehensive report of the work done at the Mission during the past year, mainly under the guidance of Rev. William Eakin, whose resignation was greatly regretted, was read by the new Missioner, Rev. W. Osborne Rowland, and the Management Committee's Report was suitably dealt with by the Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. R. Jackson. Adoption of these was moved from the Chair and exhaustively dealt with by the seconder, Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., whose impending departure for Oxford was the subject of regretful comment by the chairman. The Committee, including the Missioner in virtue of his office, was elected on the motion of Rev. J. Hinkins, M.A. and seconded by Miss Armstrong. The vote of thanks to the special preacher was ably dealt with by Mr. J. Wilkinson, seconded by Mrs. G. G. Henderson and briefly responded to by Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A.—Ethel M. Jackson, Hon. Sec.

Comber—The annual meeting was held on 25th February in the Schoolroom. There was a large attendance of members. To the great regret of all the Chairman of Committee, the Right Hon. J. M. Andrews, had been called to London on matters of vital importance to Ulster, and so could not take his usual place as chairman of the meeting. His cheery presence was very much missed. Mr. David Munn, J.P., took the chair. The hon. secretary, Mr. F. J. Orr, read the Church Committee's report, and also the reports of the various Church organisations, i.e., the Sunday School, the Women's League, League of Loyalty, the Young People's Society. The hon. treasurer, the Hon. Lord Chief Justice Andrew, gave a statement of the accounts of the church. Despite unusual heavy expenditure there was no debt at the end of the year. All other funds of the organisations were in a healthy state. Mr. Alex. Orr made the financial statement about the choir fund and its investment. The adoption of the report and statements of account was moved by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. W. Munn. Mr. R. Dugan moved the election of office-bearers. This was seconded by Mrs. H. McCormick. The appreciation by the members of the congregation of the Sunday School teachers' faithful work was voiced by Mrs. Davies and seconded by Mr. A. Simpson. The organist and choir were thanked by Mr. David Munn and he was supported in his remarks by Mr. Henry Adams. Thanks to the Rev. and Mrs. J. Glynne Davies for their work during the year was given by Mr. Harry McCormick, who spoke of the great value of visits to the homes of members by the minister as well as the high standard of preaching in the pulpit. Mrs. Davies was thanked for her work in the Women's League and amongst the young people of the congregation. Mr. John Hanna seconded this vote of thanks. The Rev. J. Glynne Davies replied and said he appreciated the welcome he received in the homes of the members. He thanked the committee and teachers and choir for their co-operation, which made the work of the Church successful. Mrs. James Andrews distributed the prizes to successful members of the League of Loyalty. A musical programme was given by members of the choir and some members of the congregation and the minister. Tea was generously given by the Right Hon. J. M. Andrews and Mrs. Andrews, to whom a hearty round of applause was given. During the evening the Rev. J. Glynne Davies mentioned the great and arduous service that was being given to Ulster by the Right Hon. J. M. Andrews. The appointment of the hon. treasurer to the position of Lord Chief Justice had given great pleasure to his fellow-members in the church, and Mr. Davies also spoke of the great value of the treasurer's work, his unstinted generosity and his unfailing interest in the well-being of the Church.

Mountpottinger—The annual meeting of the Congregation was held on Wednesday, March 16th, when a goodly company assembled in the Schoolroom under the Chairmanship of Mr. James Orr. The Committee's Report as presented by Mr. H. B. McCu lough, Hon. Secretary, showed that the activities of the Church had been well maintained during the year. The Financial Statement as introduced by the Hon. Treas., Mr. E. R. Jackson, would have shown an improved position as compared with the previous year had it not been for the heavy cost of repairing the ravages of the Snow Blizzard which visited Ulster in March 1937. The Church Committee was re-elected for another year with an additional member in Mr. A. Corbett, whilst the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer were asked to continue in their respective positions. Mr. L. Watters, who was in the happy position of having a credit balance for the Sunday School Accounts was also requested to continue in

his position. Miss R. McMinn who had ably filled the position of Magazine Secretary for some years, having intimated inability to continue in office was thanked for her work and a successor appointed in the person of Mr. L. Watters, Jun. Mr. H. Thomas and Mr. J. Orr were re-elected Hon. Auditors and thanked for their work. Rev. F. Munford, B.A. in the course of a short address said that it had been a very pleasant year for his wife and himself and requested the members to continue their loyal support. Business having concluded tea was served by the members of the Women's League. A short musical programme followed which included songs from Mrs. J. Allen and Mr. L. Watters with violin solos by Miss Jean Keith. Rev. F. Munford, B.A. and Mr. L. Watters, Jun. acted as accompanists and the latter also gave pianoforte solos. Mrs. E. R. Jackson contributed two recitations.—E.R.J.

Moneyrea—A very successful concert, organised by Mr. Hugh Frame, manager, was held in the Lyttle Memorial School on 18th February, in aid of the school. The Rev. J. D. Davies presided. The first half of the programme was in the hands of the scholars, who, trained by Mr. J. J. Stewart, performed in character the operetta, "The Holiday Concert," by J. O. Murdoch, which was beautifully done and worth seeing. The audience was delighted with the excellent sining and playing of the children on the stage. Those who took part, in addition to chorus singers, were—Mary McCune, Fairy Content; Ruth Scott, Fairy Fun; M. Holland, Fairy Goodwill; Leilah Boyd, Fish Lassie; Sadie Weir, Flower Girl; Lucy Mateer, Fruit Girl; Irene Andrews, Servant Girl; Marie Bailie, The Old Woman; J. Barry, Cheery Tommy; Robt. Bailie, Archer; H. McChine, Captain; A. Lappin, Tom Tickletooth; Willie Hogg, Newsboy; Willie Dickson, Samuel Miskelly and Ernie McKibben, Sailors. The second half was miscellaneous, well known and popular artistes taking part—Songs by Miss Eileen Ervine, and Miss Hume; recitations by Miss Sheila Orr, songs by Mr. Woodburn, humorous songs by Mr. T. Reynolds, instrumental music by Master J. Martin. Every item was so thoroughly appreciated that the artistes had to respond to encores time and again. A hearty vote of thanks to the artistes, scholars and teachers, was proposed by Mr. James Frame, seconded by Mr. R. Best, and the very enjoyable proceedings came to an with the singing of the National Anthem.

Moontpottinger Women's League—At a meeting of the Sewing Circle held on Feb. 22nd, Miss Forrest, who for many years was Secretary of the League, was presented with a Tea Waggon as an appreciation of her work for the League.

On February 23rd, a very enjoyable social evening was given by the members. Those contributing to the programme were Mrs. E. R. Jackson, little Miss Joan McCullough and the "Melody Four." Mr. E. McCullough supplied the music for dancing.

The annual "Kitchen Shower" and social was held on March 9th, the artist on this occasion being little Miss Spratt, whose recitations were very much appreciated.

Crumlin—The annual meeting of the Crumlin Congregation was held on March 17th at 8 p.m. There was a very satisfactory attendance. The minister expressed the regret of the congregation at the loss, by death, during the past year, of Mr. James Harkness and Mrs. S. Thompson and on behalf of the congregation extended sympathy with the bereaved. The treasurer reported a credit balance of £38. Mr. W. McClurg was re-elected secretary and Mr. F. Manderson treasurer. It was reported that the Sunday School had increased in number from six to ten. Mrs. Hinkins gave a cheering report of the newly formed branch of the Women's League: the attendance had been all that could be expected and it was hoped that a sale of work would be arranged in the not too distant future. It was agreed that a School Anniversary and Flower service should be held on Sunday, June 5th at 3-30 p.m. The ladies provided refreshments at the close of the meeting.

Clough—Owing to local circumstances a new departure was made this year in the presentation of prizes to the scholars. Instead of meeting in the Presbyterian Hall for the social the scholars and friends, by the kind invitation of Mrs. and Miss Hay, met at Lodge Hill on Friday evening, 11th March. After a liberal tea the minister presided, and in the course of a short address pointed out that owing to various circumstances the average attendance had been lower than for some years past and urged the scholars to try and recover lost ground by their regular attendance. Miss Hay who had been absent for some months for health reasons, was now able to take up her duties as Sabbath School teacher, and in the name of the scholars, gave her a hearty welcome to the position which

she had occupied for so many years After the presentation of prizes by Miss Hay—35 in all—the scholars spent a very happy evening together with games, recitations, etc., and it was generally felt that the new departure had been a great success.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Robert Kennedy.

With deep regret we announce the death of Mr. Robert Kennedy, at his residence, Mount Salem, Ballyrussel, Dundonald, early on Friday morning, February 18th, at the age of 77 years. Mr. Kennedy, like his forbears was closely connected with Moneyrea all his life. He was an ardent supporter and a regular attender of his church and as such he was a great example to others. For a great many years he was an active member of the Committee and a Trustee, and recently, owing to failing health, he resigned the Treasurership which he had held for 29 years, during which he rendered invaluable service to the congregation, who, at the time of his resignation, showed their appreciation of his sterling qualities and his long and faithful service, when he and Mrs Kennedy were the recipients of handsome gifts. He was well known as a successful and prosperous farmer, in whom the community at large had implicit confidence for he was a man of sound judgment, consientious and straight in word and deed. He never said an unkind word about anybody. He was a friendly man, who liked to see everybody doing well. Through his death, the congregation of Moneyrea and the people of the district have suffered a very serious loss, they have lost a loyal friend. We deeply sympathise with Mrs. Kennedy and family in their bereavement. The funeral to Moneyrea on the following Sunday was exceptionally large. Rev. J. Glynne Davies and Rev. J. Dare Davies officiated.

It may be that certain English people are not familiar with the word "Manse" or it may be that a certain typist had her own opinion concerning the minister to whom she had to write. How can one explain this from a business house? "Mr. J. Kinkins, The Mouse Crumlin."

HISTORICAL NOTES.

A Church Choir's Records.

One hundred and twenty-two years ago the First Church took the important step in regard to the praise service by appointing a Music Committee. Previously the singing leader or precentor in collaboration with the minister arranged what was to be sung. The boys' choir, then the principal medium of rendering praise, had its limitations, and the congregation composed as it was by the leading citizens of the town, felt that something better was needed than the old tunes handed down from time to time which did not accord with the times. Belfast at that time, especially in musical circles, had "growing pains" In the home circles singing and instrumental music had raised a higher standard, and so it was thought the Church service should be improved by introducing hymns and part singing. The Second Congregation ten years before (Sept. 7, 1806) had taken what was then a very radical step by introducing an organ as an adjunct of worship. Edward Bunting, an outstanding figure in local music circles, had shown its capabilities in helping to improve the singing, but the conservatism of the First Congregation, or perhaps it was the inherent love for the old form of worship, made them still hold fast to the Psalms.

The Music Committee decided to engage a teacher of music, one who could build up a choir worthy of the congregation and dispense in time with the boys' choir.

Sgr. Guarini was engaged for a certain term. As he does not appear to have taken part in the services, only teaching, we may assume that he was a Roman Catholic. A quartette of male voices was introduced in 1816, and in that year part singing was introduced.

With the termination of Sgr. Guarini's engagement as singing teacher in 1818, the boys from the Charitable Institute School no longer formed part of the choir, which had then four paid male singers—treble, counter tenor, tenor and bass. The choice of hymns was restricted and they were rather depressing. A few have withstood the test of time and are in our New Hymnal. "Before Jehovah's awful throne," "O God our help in ages past," "The spacious firmament on high," "Thou art, O God, the life and light," "Up to the hills," "Hark, the glad sound," "Children of the Heavenly King," and "Lord dismiss us," etc. Some of these have been altered for the better.

One hymn had no less than nineteen verses, another ten six line verses. If these were all sung the choir must have been quite exhausted —particularly as there was no organ to help.

The Music Committee then was small, only three members—Henry Joy of the *News-Letter*, J. Holmes Houston, the Banker, and Dr. Thomson, ex-officio members of General Committee. No easy task theirs. Approval of new tunes, and seeing that the music be so regulated in point of compass as in every Psalm to suit the voices of the congregation.

Wm. Hughes appointed precentor in 1820 on the recommendation of Mr. Bunting, Belfast's musical authority at that time, earned his £40. In addition to the practice before service there were two practices during the week. He had to write all music required by the choir, undertake the tuition of the choir and any additional voices, if deemed an improvement by Music Committee.

Irregular attendance by the paid singers at that period caused drastic action, being only paid for each service they were present. In Hughes's case this was serious for he lost over one quarter's salary in one year, and most likely would have been discharged but for ill-health. He died in 1828. That year the first paid lady singer was appointed: Mary Hughes, probably his daughter. Her salary was £8 8s. per annum.

One of the last acts of Hughes, along with Music Committee, was to compile a Psalmody. This included five of his own composition and continued in use until 1886. The reputation of the choir a century ago was high for in 1831 Rev. Dr. Hanna asked for the assistance of some of them for the opening of his new Church building, Rosemary Street. In that same year, on 21st March, the day of the General Fast, the First House joined with others in holding a service at 11-0 a.m.

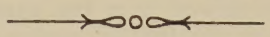
From 1841 to 1863 the choir was a voluntary one. Unfortunately the reason for the change is unknown as the minutes for most of that period are missing. It is known, however that an organ was installed in 1853 and replaced in 1855. The first organist was John Moore, but he only stayed a few months, followed by Welbre Burnet. In 1864 Hobson Carroll was appointed, and he soon raised the prestige of the choir, once more built round a professional quartette—tenor, bass, soprano and alto.

There were two preparatory services held on week evenings before Communion, so organist and choir must have been kept busy on those occasions. Hobson Carroll was organist for some twenty years. Two of his compositions were dedicated to the Church, "Rosemary St." and "Ulster."

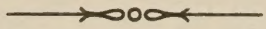
The display of cards giving the hymns to be used during service is not of recent years, for this was done in Rosemary Street over seventy years ago. Why this was discontinued is unknown.

One old hymn "Jesus shall reign," etc., has been used so often on special occasions in the Church's history that it must be considered its favourite. Originally it had seven verses. It is a pity it was omitted from the New Hymnal.

H. J. F. ORR.



Avoiding evil is but half our work; in God's own sight, a virtue negative. . . . If service of our fellow-men we shirk, we cannot say that we as Christians live . . . 'Tis not enough allegiance to proclaim to worthy creeds and sentiments of grace; 'tis Christianity in more than name will make this world more like God's dwelling-place. So, though our thoughts may harbour nought of ill towards our neighbours or our enemies—'tis not enough; with more than mere goodwill—with more than murmuring of litanies—must we give proof that love is in our heart, and that we try to walk the Christian way. 'Tis deeds, much more than words, must play their part in little kindnesses of everyday. . . The crust we share, the wound we strive to bind, avails us more than all the spoken creeds; if we'd serve God, then we must serve mankind; translating Christian faith to Christian deeds.



Gather us in; we worship only Thee;
In varied names we stretch a common hand.
In diverse forms a common soul we see;
In many ships we seek one spirit land.
Thine is the mystic life great India craves,
Thine is the Parsi's purifying beam;
Thine is the Buddhist's rest from tossing waves,
Thine is the empire of vast China's dream.
Thine is the Roman's strength without his pride,
Thine is the Greek's glad world without its slaves;
Thine is Judea's law, with love beside,
Truth that enlightens, charity that saves.
Some seek a Father in the heavens above,
Some ask a human image to adore;
Some crave a spirit vast as life and love,
Within Thy mansions we have all and more.

Rev. Dr. G. Matheson (altered)

REVIEWS.

The Lord's Prayer and an Address on *The Offering of Prayer* by the Rev. V. D. Davis, B.A. "The Lindsey Press" pp. 64.

Our Ministers may have each received a copy of this little book, which they will no doubt place among their selections of devotional books; and commend it where this type of reading is acceptable. Mr. Davis was at one time Editor of "The Inquirer," and is well-known among our congregations as an exceedingly able man; and this little manual has condensed in a few pages, what must have been the fruit of meditation and the experience of many years. The opening sentences give the keynote of the book:—"It is the silent voices that penetrate most deeply into our life, with power to quicken, strengthen and sustain; and most profoundly the Silent Voice of the living God, the Eternal, who is with us always, most intimately near, if only we will be attentive to the Truth, teaching inwardly."

Reference is made to the Jewish ideal of the Kingdom of God which was familiar. Recently an Indian, who provides abundant references to support his contention, has endeavoured to present Jesus as a political leader as well as a spiritual teacher, thus involving himself with Pilate and Herod, and in order to escape being made a King going into solitude for a time. The "temptation clauses" so often criticised, are explained as one impulse of desire and aspiration "not temptation, but deliverance from the power of evil." "The Offering of Prayer" is the "Visitor's Address" given at Manchester College, Oxford, 1924, and this deals with liturgical and extempore forms of prayer in church services.—ULLIN.

It is almost a tradition that Unitarians are coldly intellectual. If there be an element of truth in this generalization we may yet regret the use of the adjective. It suggests that a Unitarian Christian may "love the Lord with all his mind" to the neglect of "heart and soul and strength." Perhaps with his characteristic fervour in social activities we may say he loves God with his "strength"—loving his fellowmen may be so interpreted. But it may be true, in this generalizing, that he is not given to spiritual exercises. Though who can be in a position to judge of such a necessarily intimate matter?

But this as it may, it is good to find the Lindsey Press issuing devotional works occasionally. Those twenty-two little books under the common title "Religion: Its modern needs and problems" were excellent, full of "meat" and rightly welcomed.

Now these two latest publications: "Prayers" of Philemon Moore, and (just published), "The Lord's Prayer" by V. D. Davis; are doubly welcome: as filling the gap (heart and soul) and giving us two books of sure strengthening value.

It is true one can hardly "be good" without "doing good." But prayer may be "doing good" too. Even an active child for ever running about at games, and busy with its lessons, does find a joy in occasionally being with its father, in heart to heart talk; or just being with him. Yes, we welcome these books.

"The Lord's Prayer," as the author expressed the hope in his preface, will be found a helpful little book. It contains apart from an interpretation of the Prayer, singularly felicitous, also an address "The Offering of a Prayer" that was delivered a few years ago at Manchester College, Oxford, to outgoing candidates for the Ministry.

God speed these books.—P. GODDING.

There is a story of a man who went into a hairdresser's shop, and when he sat down in the chair to have his hair cut everybody in the barber's shop had a sense of someone unusual being there. It permeated those who cut the hair, almost a hush stole over the barbers, and when the man left, people among themselves inquired, "I wonder who that was?" They thought he was curious, an unusual sort of person. It turned out that the man was to be President Wilson. He was not President at the time, but his whole make-up, his whole tone, made an impression on these people in the hairdresser's shop. So a leader is always more or less impressive: He stamps people with his hall-mark.—G.S.A.

* * *

One said 'it is death' and I in weakness slipping through the night in some affright, looked up. And lo! no spectre grim but just a dim sweet face, a sweet mother face, alight with tenderness and grace. 'Thou art not death' I cried, for life supremest fantasy had never thus envisaged death to me; 'Thou art not death, the end!' In accents winning came the answer, 'Friend, there is no death! I am the beginning, not the end!' These truths, which are as great as is life itself, are as simple as the simplest mind of man: 'Man is immortal,' 'God is good.' 'As a man sows so shall he reap.'

ORDINATION LUNCHEON AT DOWNPATRICK

Refreshments were served by the Ulster Menu Company in the spacious Assembly Hall, which was florally decorated, and every one of the long tables was filled. The Moderator made a most genial chairman.

Rev. J. Glynne Davies, of Comber, after the royal toast, in proposing 'The Governor,' said that in honouring him we were paying tribute to the King. We were passing through difficult times in regard to unemployment. It was sad to think of so many good fellows facing the future with so much uncertainty. What a fine spirit they had, loyal to the core! We could only pray for a return of prosperity, not merely for the province, but for the whole country.

Mr. Richard Chambers did not feel in a position to speak for industry; but, turning to agriculture, anyone who might have imagined field labour to be a thing of the past had only to look at Limavady were 25,000 people watched international ploughing matches. So, 'God speed the plough!'

Rev. J. J. Magill proposed 'The Non-Subscribing Church in Ireland.' As the second oldest minister on the active list, for 40 years at Rademon he had lived within sight of Downpatrick's ecclesiastical and other prominent buildings and within sound of its bells. The two places, Downpatrick and Rademon, were linked by the names of members of the Nelson family, not only useful ministers of the Synod of Ulster, but likewise distinguished as teachers at a time when educational facilities were not what they were to-day. While the title of the toast was a matter of yesterday, the Church dated back to the Plantation. Marked for its qualities of industry, reliability, carefulness and loyalty, Northern Ireland was largely made by those Presbyterians who migrated from Scotland early in the 17th century, never to be forgotten by their descendants. Personally he had enjoyed political as well as theological freedom, no one ever intruding upon his opinions. In the Church courts the laity and the ministers had equal power; there was no room for autocracy. He could only say to Mr. Hall in coming to a city grey with history, 'I hope your lot will be as happy as mine has been.'

Rev. J. Begg was glad to propose 'The Newly Ordained Minister,' since they had been chums together at college, and he was endowed with many admirable qualities. The people of County Down were perhaps less stern than those of County Antrim, where the broad Doric was still spoken. Before going to Larne it had been his privilege to minister here, and he was always made to feel at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hall would find the Downpatrick people kindly, and ready to rally to their support, ready to work with them as well as for them. Might the new relationship be a long and happy one!

The Moderator mentioned that Mrs. Hall had been a Sunday-school teacher and worker in his former church at Cosely, his check clerk too in distributing £2,700 every Christmas.

Rev. Henry Hall, who was cheered on rising, acknowledged on behalf of his wife and himself the gracious and cordial welcome, not omitting that by the Moderator, whom he succeeded at Cosely, or by his old friend, Mr. Begg, or by representatives of other denominations. His name was also borne by a certain personage famous in musical broadcasting—a circumstance which explained the disappointment of two children at a Baptist service he once conducted, their plea being 'We were waiting for your band!' He was looking forward to meeting the Downpatrick people in their homes. It had been his good fortune at Hinckley to work in close association with ministers of other Churches, each of whom at the same time held his own distinctive points of view on theology, church government and the like. While there were things that divided them naturally and necessarily, the things that united them were infinitely more important. He stood for unity, not for uniformity. In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, 'In death the many became one; in life the one becomes many; religion will be one when God is dead.' Any insistence upon differences should not prevent a common working together for the extension of the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

The Moderator, in submitting 'Other Churches,' referred with admiration to a sermon which Rev. J. Murray Moore, of Downpatrick, preached recently at Seaforde; also, ministerial assistance he had received from Dundrum Methodist manse.

Rev. J. Murray Moore, replying in a sparkling anecdotal speech, said that Mr. Hall had been reared in a Church which provided England with its Prime Minister, and had come to a territory always ready to accept with gratitude men like him capable of benefiting the community. According to a graph which had once been kept, the attendance at a certain church was lowest on the day of the foreign missions collection, and

highest on the first day when the new minister preached. Might the attendance at Stream Street be always at the highest point! Personally he should be glad to see established an interdenominational ministers' council, so that Protestant folk might work together for the common good.

Rev. W. T. Brownlee, Methodist, wished for the success of the new tie so auspicously formed.

Rev. A. L. Agnew, D.D., proposed 'The Press,' and tickled the audience with a fanciful report of the proceedings, containing such phrases as these: 'Mr. Hall, more famous than his namesake of the B.B.C.; old meeting house have to be enlarged; sumptuous repast in town hall; no disorder; escort of brass and pipe band to the station, a great day ending with the hope that it would be a long time before the Presbytery were to be seen on the same errand again!'

The representative of the 'Recorder' responded; and the finale was the National Anthem.—*Down Recorder.*

"LEAGUE"

Dr. L. P. Jacks, in a letter to *The Times*, quoted in *Public Opinion* suggests abandoning the term "League" and substituting "Society." "American policy is averse from membership of a League ('an entangling alliance') but I am not aware of its being averse from membership of an international society." . . . "Indeed the reform of the League desired by many of its friends, among whom your present correspondent would like to be counted, may be summed up in the desire for its dissolution in the form of a League and its rebirth in the form of a Society. . . As now constituted, it is a political League of armed and Sovereign states, 'bristling with armaments.' It has set on foot a number of beneficent enterprises, but as a political and military alliance it has been 'entangling' and a complete failure."

We have never been attracted to the use of the term "League," notwithstanding excellent work of various types accomplished under that title. Not without good reason, it has always seemed to imply the banding together of a section, as opposed to others.

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